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SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY China  
SUBJECT Military  
HOW PUBLISHED Weekly newspaper

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. *3 Apr. 1952*

WHERE PUBLISHED Rangoon

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED 14 Feb 1952

LANGUAGE Chinese

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Chung-kuo Lun-t'an Pao (China Tribune).

CHINESE COMMUNISTS PREPARE FOR  
MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Hong Kong, 8 February -- As a result of a recent military conference in Kwangsi attended by Communist leaders Lin Piao and Chang Yun-i (張雲逸), Vashinov /Chinese approximation of Russian name/ (Soviet military agent responsible for directing the invasion of Southeast Asia), and Ho Chi Minh, there has been, since late January, a sudden increase in military movements in South China and of Soviet military supplies to Viet Minh. Many reports state that Communist troops in Hainan are being moved into southern Kwangtung, and that construction of military installations on the island has been stopped.

These unusual activities are puzzling even to the Communist officials in Kwangtung. One possible answer to these activities may be that the Communists are making preparations to abandon the island since they will be unable to protect it from Allied air and naval attacks in event war is touched off in Southeast Asia.

At present, the Communists are concentrating their efforts on protecting the communication routes in South China, as follows:

1. Coastal routes from Swatow southwestward are being guarded mainly by militia; regular troops are stationed in the interior to guard the roads among the hills.
2. An estimated four public security divisions have been assigned the task of suppressing the anti-Communist guerilla forces along the Kwangtung-Fukien-Kiangsi borders.
3. From Hu-men to Tung-kuan, and along the highways toward Canton there are 50,000 to 60,000 Communist troops; one army along the Canton-Hankow Railway from Canton to Ch'u-chiang; one public security division along the Hsiao-pai Chiang; and two public security divisions in Kwangtung near the Huan-Kiangsi border.

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4. Three armies are stationed from the Chu Chiang delta area westward along the coast to Fort Bayard. These armies are also assigned protection of sea and land communication routes along the Hsi Chiang.

5. A large number of Communist troops was recently transferred from Hainan to the Lei-chou Peninsula, leaving only 2,000 troops under Feng Pai-chu (冯白驹) and one division of the Fourth Field Army to guard the island. Reasons circulating in Hsi-k'ou for the withdrawal of so many troops are that the island cannot be defended and will be abandoned eventually. Yu-lin harbor and the Liang-lin and Huang-liu airfields are still being used. The iron mines have ceased operation and emergency work on the airfields have stopped.

In contrast, activities on the opposite shore, in Fort Bayard and Lung-men have increased. Supplies to aid Viet Minh are being transhipped from these points.

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